
Manner: UNDETERMINED

Deaths are certified as undetermined (or unclassified) manner of death when serious doubt exists as to whether a person met his or her death intentionally or accidentally. Information concerning the circumstances may be lacking because of the absence of background information or witnesses, or because of a lengthy delay between death and discovery of the body. If an extensive investigation and autopsy cannot clarify the circumstances, the death is placed in this category. Within King County, there were 89 deaths with manner unclassified or undetermined, accounting for 6% (89/1506) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2000. Drugs caused twenty-nine (33%) of the 89 deaths of undetermined manner. For a more detailed review of drug-caused deaths in 2000, see also the discussion in the section on Drugs and Poisons on pages 79 & 80.

Graph 8-1

Undetermined Circumstances in 2000

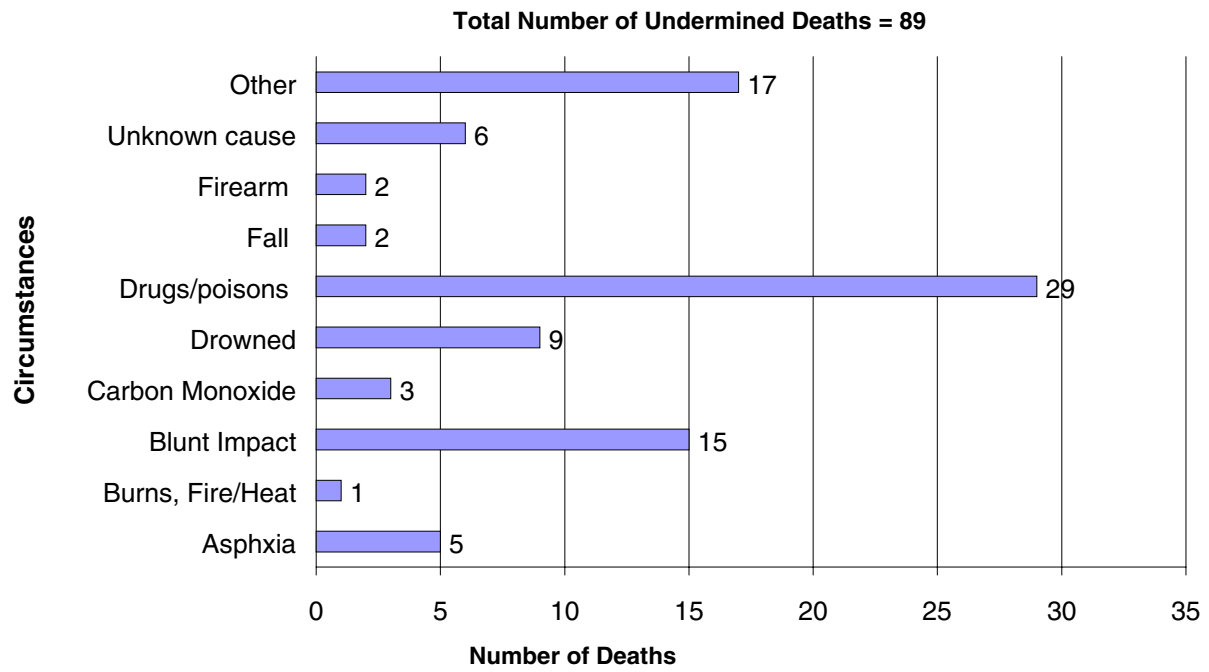
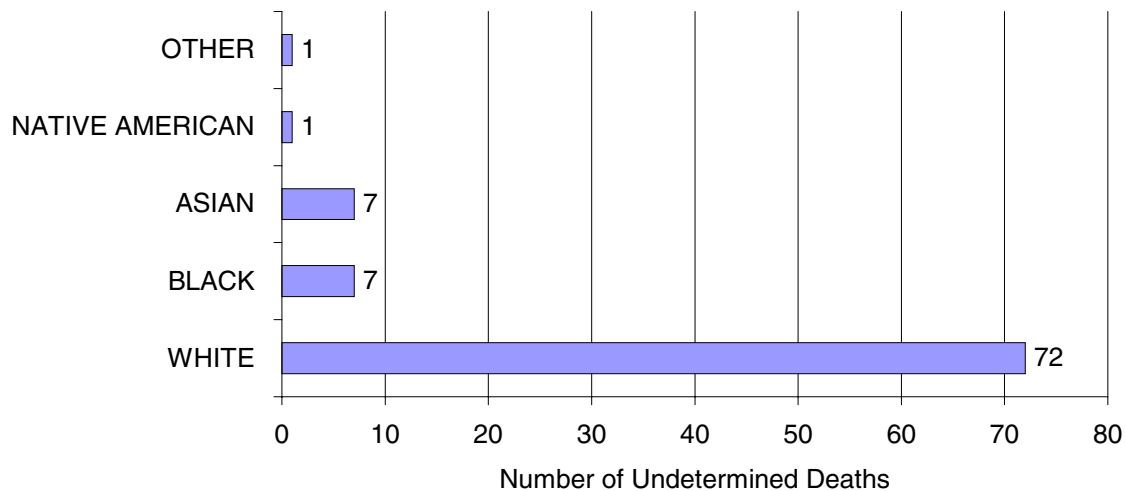


Table 8-1 Undetermined Circumstances and Race of the Decedent

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia	5	0	0	0	0		5
<i>Male</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Blunt Impact	12	1	0	1	1		15
<i>Male</i>	7	1	0	1	1	10	
<i>Female</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5	
Carbon Monoxide	3	0	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Drowned	3	3	3	0	0		9
<i>Male</i>	3	2	3	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	25	1	2	0	1		29
<i>Male</i>	12	1	1	0	0	14	
<i>Female</i>	13	0	1	0	1	15	
Fall	2	0	0	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Firearm	1	0	1	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	1	0	1	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No anatomic or toxicologic cause of death	6	0	0	0	0		6
<i>Male</i>	6	0	0	0	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	14	2	1	0	0		17
<i>Male</i>	8	2	1	0	0	11	
<i>Female</i>	6	0	0	0	0	6	
Total	72	7	7	1	2		89
Percent	81%	8%	8%	1%	2%		

Graph 8-2 Deaths Due to Undetermined Circumstances and Race of the Decedent



Graph 8-3 Deaths Due to Undetermined Circumstances and Age Group of the Decedent

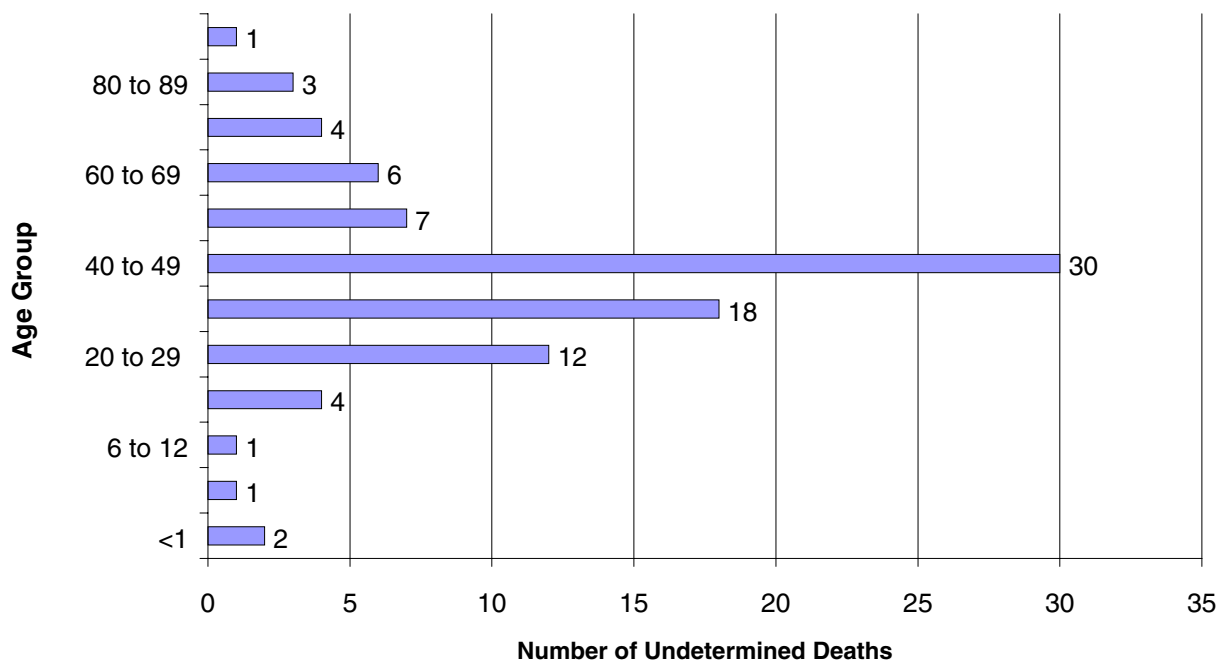


Table 8-2 **Undetermined Circumstances and Age Group of the Decedent**

INJURY METHOD / GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)											SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	<1	5 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		5
Male	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Blunt Impact	0	0	0	1	1	7	1	1	2	1	1		15
Male	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	2	0	0	10	
Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	5	
Carbon Monoxide	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0		3
Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Drowned	0	0	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0		9
Male	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	8	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	2	0	0	6	6	12	1	1	0	1	0		29
Male	1	0	0	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	14	
Female	1	0	0	1	2	8	1	1	0	1	0	15	
Fall	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		2
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Firearm	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		2
Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No anatomic or toxicological cause of death	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0		6
Male	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	6	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	0	1	0	0	5	4	3	2	1	1	0		17
Male	0	1	0	0	4	2	2	1	0	1	0	11	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	6	
Total	2	5	2	11	18	30	7	6	4	3	1		89
Percent	2%	6%	2%	12%	20%	34%	8%	7%	5%	3%	1%		

Table 8-3 Undetermined Circumstances and Gender of the Decedent

INJURY METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia	5	0	5
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	1	1
Blunt Impact	10	5	15
Carbon Monoxide	2	1	3
Drowned	8	1	9
Drugs/poisons	14	15	29
Fall	2	0	2
Firearms	2	0	2
No anatomic or toxicologic cause of death	6	0	6
Other	11	6	17
Total	60	29	89
Percent	67%	33%	

Table 8-4 Undetermined Circumstances and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia	1	3	1	5
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	0	0	1
Blunt Impact	5	4	6	15
Carbon Monoxide	1	2	0	3
Drowned	6	1	2	9
Drugs/poisons	7	20	2	29
Fall	1	1	0	2
Firearms	0	2	0	2
No anatomic or toxicological cause of death	1	3	2	6
Other	5	9	3	17
Total	28	45	16	89